

By the Queene.

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Whereas heretofore sundry wayes haue bene deuised to redresse the disorders among the Postes of our Realme in generall, and particularly to preuent the inconueniences both to our owne seruice, and the lawfull trade of the honest marchantes, by prohibiting that no persons whatsoeuer, should take vpon them publickely or priuately to procure, gather by, receiue, bring in, or carry out, any Packets or letters to or from the Countreys beyond the Seas, except such our ordinarie Postes and Messengers for those parties, as eyther by our Master of the Postes, or the Masters of the Postes generall of those Countreys reciproquely, should be found nominated for that kind of seruice, or otherwise be able to shewe sufficient warrant for their voyages and dispatches vnder the hands of our principall Secretaries, any Ambassadors, or others sufficiently authorized: which notwithstanding, diuers disauowed persons haue vsed to intrude themselves contrary to all good order. In consideration of which inconueniences past, we doe hereby straightly prohibite and forbid all persons whatsoeuer, directly or indirectly to gather by, receiue, bring in, or carie out of this Realme, any Letters or Packets, without the allowance or ordinarie addresse and dispatch of the sayde Masters and Comptrollers of the Postes reciproquely, or their deputies, or shall be sufficiently authorized as is aforesayde. And therefore our will and pleasure is, that you the Lord Treasourer of England, and the Lord Warden of the Cinque-Portes, together with our trustie and welbeloued seruant John Stanhop Esquire, Master and Comptroller generall of all our Postes, cause publique knowledge to be giuen hereof vnto all Merchants, both Strangers and others of our Citie of London, and all others whom it may or ought to concerne, that neither they nor any for them doe hereafter take vpon them, openly or vnderhand to employ any such disauowed person in the carying of their Letters, but to vse such onely as shall be found lawfully appoynted for that seruice. To which effect also we do expressly wil and command by these presents, all Maiors, Sheriffes, Iustices of Peace, Bailiffes, and all special Commissioners, and more specially all Searchers, Customs and Comptrollers of our Portes, and all other our Officers and Ministers wheresoeuer in their seuerall iurisdiccions and offices, to make diligent search of all Hales, Bougets, and other Cariages of all such disauowed Curriers, Messengers, or suspected persons comming in or going out of the Realme with Packettes or Letters, and all such so discovered, to apprehend and stay, keeping them in safe custodie, vntill by the viewe of their writings sent by to our priue Counsaile, it be seene and aduised what shall be further done with them. Signed at our Mannor of Greenwich the 26. day of Aprill, 1591. in the 33. yeere of our reigne.

God saue the Queene.

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